

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-02 /005 R

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R 091524Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 133441

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE INFO DEA JUSTICE, DOD, CINCPAC,
BANGKOK FROM SAIGON ON JUL 04, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS SAIGON 11994

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR VS

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED HEROIN

BANGKOK FOR DEA

1. APPROXIMATELY ONE-HUNDRED KILOS OF PURE HEROIN WAS
DESTROYED BY BURNING THIS MORNING AT A PUBLIC CEREMONY
IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

2. MINISTER OF JUSTICE THU, MINISTER OF FINANCE TRUNG,
GENERAL LAM, ADMIRAL CANG, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF
MILITARY, POLICE, AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS PRESIDED THIS
MORNING OVER A CEREMONY AT WHICH AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO
VIETNAMESE POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN
ACTIVE IN THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM. AWARDS WERE
ALSO GIVEN TO CHARGE D'AFFAIRES CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE,
DEA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FRED C. DICK, SPECIAL
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AGENT WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, SPECIAL AGENT STEPHEN H.

GREENE, AND SPECIAL AGENT JOSEPH DALY. THE CEREMONY CLOSED WITH THE PUBLIC BURNING OF ONE-HUNDRED KILOS OF PURE HEROIN. THE HEROIN WAS SAMPLED FOR FURTHER TESTING BY MR. STANLEY SOBEL, CHIEF CHEMIST, SPECIAL TESTING AND RESEARCH LABORATORY, DEA. MR. SOBEL CONDUCTED SAMPLE TESTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES JUST PRIOR TO BURNING.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE LARGEST PUBLIC DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED HEROIN EVER CONDUCTED. WE ESTIMATE THAT AT CURRENT STREET PRICES IN THE U.S. THE VALUE OF THE HEROIN DESTROYED WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION.

4. THE SAIGON CEREMONY WAS COVERED BY THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS, INCLUDING SEVERAL TELEVISION NETWORKS. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA TAKE STEPS TO PUBLICIZE THIS EVENT WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION FIELD. WE NOTE THAT MR. BARTELS HAS JUST ASSUMED HIS DUTIES AS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, DEA, AND HE MAY FIND IT OPPORTUNE TO ALLUDE TO THIS EVENT IN A FORTHCOMING PUBLIC APPEARANCE.
WHITEHOUSE
UNQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

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